

Application No.: 09/894,684

Docket No.: JCLA6420-CIP

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Claims 1-14 are allowed and a new title is required. The Office Action objected claims 20-22 and rejected claims 15-19. Specifically, the Office Action objected claims 20-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action rejected claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Olarig et al. (US No. 5,937,173) in view of Beukema et al. (US No. 6,185,642). Applicants have amended claims 4, 8, and 9 for correcting some typing errors, and have amended claims 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21 to improve clarity. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-22 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of claims 15-19 is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Objections

According to the Office Action, claims 20-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response thereto, applicants amend claims 20 and 21 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 20-22 are no more depending on a rejected base claim and, therefore, should be allowed.

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Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Olarig et al. (US No. 5,937,173) in view of Beukema et al. (US No. 6,185,642). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

After entering amendment, combination of Olarig and Beukema at least does not disclose technical feature of "... asserting the corresponding bus request signal of individual master supporting the dual transmission mode; and judging whether the corresponding master corresponding to one of the bus request signals supports the dual transmission mode according to said corresponding bus request signal" as claimed in the amended claim 15. More specifically, according to Olarig (col.14, lines 36-42), upon which the Office Action relied to reject claim 15, Olarig discloses " According to the PCI 2.1 Specification, a PCI device is selected and allowed to become the PCI bus initiator when it asserts its respective REQ# signal onto the PCI bus and the PCI arbiter ...by asserting the respective GNT# signal back to PCI device requesting the PCI bus." Olarig asserts bus request signal of individual master device for acquiring bus usage but not for judging whether the master device supports dual transmission mode or not. Further, Beukema does not disclose, teach or suggest judging whether the corresponding master corresponding to the bus request signals supports the dual transmission mode according to said corresponding bus request signal. Even more, Beukema utilizes a new pin (not the request signal pin) to indicate what protocol should be used for the device. Accordingly, an extra pin which is reserved according to PCI 2.1 Specification is needed for indicating operation speed in Beukema, and less

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reserved pin could be kept by using Beukema. However, the present application, as claimed in claim 15, uses request signal pin, which is already defined in PCI 2.1 Specification, for judging whether the corresponding master supports the dual transmission mode according to said corresponding bus request signal. The same amount of reserved pin could be kept by using the present application, and this effect cannot be obtained by combining Olarig and Beukema. Accordingly, although Olarig and Beukema could be combined, those with ordinary skill cannot obtain the technique feature of judging whether the corresponding master supports the dual transmission mode according to said corresponding bus request signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 15 is patentable over Olarig in view of Beukema since combination of Olarig and Beukema does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 15 as mentioned above.

For at least the same reasons, claim 16 is patentable over Olarig in view of Beukema. Furthermore, applicants respectfully submits that according to page 3 of the Office Action, it stated "Beukema et al. disclose judging whether the corresponding master corresponding to one of the bus request signals supports the dual transmission mode according to said corresponding bus request signal (see col. 6, lines 17-61);" however the applicants do not find the related information. It can be seen from col. 6, lines 26-31 that Beukema "using a pin on the bridges and adapters which is referred to herein as the HighPEN pin (high performance enable). The HighPEN pin (which may correspond to an existing ground pin on prior art devices) is utilized with the conventional PCI M66EN pin...". It is very clear that at least 2 pins are used for indicating operating speed of the device. Accordingly, even combining Olarig and Beukema,

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those with ordinary skill cannot indicate whether the device supports dual transmission mode since none of them teaches it. Therefore, claim 15 and 16 are patentable over Olarig in view of Beukema.

For at least the same reasons, claim 17 is patentable over Olarig in view of Beukema. Furthermore, applicants respectfully submits that Beukema does not teach "comparing a vendor's ID and a device ID of the individual master with a status list to determine whether the individual master supports the dual transmission mode" in col.6, lines 17-61 as pointed out in the Office Action. More detailed information is respectfully required.

For at least the same reasons, claim 18 is patentable over Olarig in view of Beukema. Furthermore, applicants respectfully submits that Beukema does not teach "programming a host bridge in response to the masters supporting the dual transmission mode" in col.6, lines 17-61 as pointed out in the Office Action. More detailed information is respectfully required.

For at least the same reasons, claim 19 is patentable over Olarig in view of Beukema. Furthermore, applicants respectfully submits that Beukema does not teach "the dual mode ID is determined in response to two least significant bits of an address signal" in col.6, lines 17-61 as pointed out in the Office Action. More detailed information is respectfully required.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 patently defines over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 16-19 patently define over the prior art as well.

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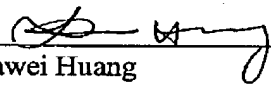
CONCLUSION

The applicants appreciate allowance of claims 1-14, and claims 20-22 should be allowed after amendment since they are amended to include all of the limitations of their rejected base claim. Further, for at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that claims 15-19, as amended, are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS



Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330